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which has been prepared by the Massachusetts branch, to the principals of the State asking for criticisms and suggestions. In some cities, the principals have already met and discussed this course.

Ever since the organization of the Wisconsin branch last November, it has carried on active propaganda work. The Milwaukee Teachers' Association gives the secretary of the branch the use of one of its offices, from which quantities of literature have been distributed. The Wisconsin branch has appointed the following committees: Press, Meetings and Discussion, Publications, and History. The Publications Committee, of which Mr. Louis P. Lochner, secretary of the Association of Cosmopolitan Clubs, is chairman, has begun to work out an outline for normal schools similar to the Course of Study in Good Will for elementary grades. This committee is also to send out a circular letter concerning the observance of the 18th of May this year.

Although we have not as yet a branch in North Dakota, we have a most enthusiastic representative of the league there, who is doing a great deal to further the work. Mr. A. G. Crane, Superintendent of Schools in Jamestown, North Dakota, has given several addresses on the subject of peace. A few months ago he sent out a circular letter, together with the last annual report of the league, to twelve leading superintendents of North Dakota, calling attention to the league and to the valuable literature which may be obtained. He also urged them, in this letter, to arouse interest among their seniors in the essay contest. Five of Mr. Crane's seniors submitted essays. Mr. Crane has also provided the library of his school with several of the most important works on the peace movement.

The Superintendent of Instruction in the State of Washington sent out from his office a circular letter, together with the annual report of the league, to one hundred superintendents of the State, urging them to have their pupils compete in the essay contest.

The secretary of the league has given addresses before several groups of people since her return from Europe. Besides the two addresses which she delivered in Arkansas last December, she has spoken on the subject of international peace before the parents' association of the George Putnam School in Boston; the teachers of Washington, D. C., whom President David Starr Jordan addressed at the same meeting; the teachers of Memphis, Tenn., at which time a Tennessee State branch was formed; the East Baptist Church, in Lynn, Mass.; a group of prominent educators of the country at the dinner of the league in St. Louis, and about forty leading educators in Massachusetts at a luncheon given in Boston. This luncheon was given on March 16, at the Hotel Somerset, by Mrs. J. Malcolm Forbes, to the Massachusetts State Board of Education, the officers of the Massachusetts branch of the league, and the executive committee of the league. It was given for the purpose of discussing the work of the Massachusetts branch of the league. Dr. David Snedden, the State Commissioner of Education, was toastmaster, and addresses were given by Mrs. Forbes, Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, Superintendent James H. Van Sickle, of Springfield, Mass.; Mrs. Ella Lyman Cabot, member of the State Board of Education; Wilbur F. Gordy, Prof. George H. Blakeslee, of Clark University; Frederick P. Fish, chairman of the State Board of Education, and

the secretary of the league. The address by Mr. Fish was especially significant, since he made the statement that he would do all in his power to further the ideas for which the league stands.

During the convention of the Department of Superintendence in St. Louis, February 26-29, the American School Peace League gave a dinner at the Planters' Hotel to the State superintendents of instruction and other prominent educators of the country. About one hundred people attended, and addresses were given by Superintendent James H. Van Sickle, on "The General Importance of Educational Work for Peace"; Superintendent E. C. Warriner, of Saginaw, Mich., on "The Significance of the Observance of National Days"; Mrs. Ella Lyman Cabot, member of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, on "The Course of Study in Good Will"; Superintendent James M. Greenwood, of Kansas City, Mo., on "Teaching Peace in the Schools Through Instruction in American History"; United States Commissioner Philander P. Claxton, on the general subject of international peace, and the secretary of the league. Mr. Claxton spoke also about the *Peace Day Bulletin*, which he is sending out from his office. At his request the secretary of the league has compiled material for the observance of the 18th of May, which he is to send out from his office as a *Peace Day Bulletin*. In his letter of transmittal, Mr. Claxton suggests that State and city superintendents make reprints to supply their teachers. The *Bulletin* also includes a bibliography of the international peace movement and the Course of Study in Good Will. It is the most comprehensive mass of material which has yet appeared in such concise form, and it is hoped that every teacher in the country may be supplied with a copy. Several peace societies are buying copies of this *Bulletin* to send to the teachers of their respective States, and copies may be obtained from Mr. Claxton up to the limit of editions printed.

### The New China Among the Nations.

By Prof. Paul S. Reinsch, of the University of Wisconsin, at Present Roosevelt Professor in Berlin.

Translated from *Die Friedens-Warte* of March, 1912, by Henry S. Haskell.

That the sudden appearance of a mighty nation, organized on modern methods, in our international life must exert a very decided influence on this international life is unquestionable. But there exists a great difference of opinion on the subject as to whether this magnificent event will render still more keen the already existing antipathies between nations, or whether on the other hand it will tend toward the further strengthening of the unity of the world, the international legal relations of the nations and the working in harmony of nations. While we turn to these questions, we will not investigate the probable position of the new government in relation to single States, but will rather try to form an opinion concerning the general tendency of the new Chinese political life.

The great events of the present time in China might lead certainly to a sharpening of the antipathies between that government and individual states, as for example Russia and Japan. The very difference of the form of government, and in still greater measure the

awakening of a mighty national feeling, will bring it about that the Chinese will oppose to the encroachments of Russia and Japan a far more resolute opposition than was previously the case. Also it lies in the nature of the thing that the new government will stand on a still more friendly footing than during the last century with countries like the United States and Germany, who favor the development of a strong China. But we will not here discuss further these affinities and antipathies.

If we look upon the matter in its entire circumstance, we may perhaps express the expectation that the perfecting of a great and efficient national organization in China must work toward quiet and stability as well in the Far East as in the whole world. A weak China, incapable of defense, apparently fallen into decay, contains in itself a fixed threat to the world's peace. But if in place of this there be an effective organization through which the mighty realm can be effectively ruled, there will not be lacking that esteem which guarantees the peace of the country and thereby the peace of the Far East.

It may here be naturally objected that precisely the strengthening of China might lead to war between this nation and its neighbors; but if the regeneration of the Chinese government is carried out further, with the same steadfast purpose as has been the case up to this time, then the danger of war is lessened, since in such a case the neighboring nations will not attempt to encroach upon its rights through further encroachments into China.

Looked at from the outside, the unification of this great nation into an effective political organization will be considered as a progressive step, for it is exactly the great powerful nations, in which also the feeling of responsibility is to be found, which form the surest guaranty of international justice. In regard to international law itself, China has been on the whole somewhat skeptical up to this time. She had learned that foreign powers had used international law particularly for the strengthening and sharpening of their claims against China; consequently, the conception of treaty ports in China governed by foreigners, from the standpoint of international law, included everything which in their relations with foreign nations appeared to be especially humiliating; that foreigners in China do not even need to recognize Chinese law; that in their own little republics, namely, the open cities, they live under their own laws and pay no attention to the Chinese government is a condition which brings too clearly before the eyes of the Chinese the weakness of their own political system to affect them pleasantly.

After the first Hague conference China assumed an attitude of aloofness to the agreements adopted there, on the ground of its own inability to control the troops in the different provinces sufficiently to secure the observation of the rules laid down at The Hague. The year 1900 brought a terrible experience. Without being bound by the Hague agreement, foreign troops were turned loose on China. In the period of awakening and of constructive activity which followed during the last decade in China they began to apprehend more fully the advantages of international law. They saw that it is not a means of extortion but of protection, and that

co-operation in connection with its development must be expected of China, should it assume its appropriate position among the nations.

Therefore China took part in the second Hague conference and accepted many of the general treaties on which the present international life rests. In the question put by the Chinese delegates at The Hague as to what should be done when one nation declares war but the other refuses to fight shines forth the old skepticism. It is not so naive as many believed, but there is expressed in it on the other hand the great love of peace of the Chinese people.

One result of the present national movement is unavoidable. Organized as a modern state, China will immediately insist on exercising full sovereignty over every portion of its territory. If the great Chinese reform is carried out successfully, then other nations cannot refuse with justice to the new China an entrance into full membership in the community controlled by international law. As some time ago in Japan, so now soon in China there will be an end of treaty ports.

When Mr. Taft, as a member of the Cabinet, visited China some years ago he aroused horror among the foreigners settled there by his frank declaration that China would some day be master in its own house. This result has now approached considerable nearer.

But from every point of view China's entrance into the full rights and duties of the community of nations can be regarded only as something very desirable. That the Chinese are preparing themselves in every respect for this is absolutely clear from the fact that the officials and also the young students have given special attention in late years to international law. Themes of international law are continually being treated in the Chinese press; at the same time there is a Review which devotes itself entirely to this science.

Thus the idea of international community, of rules which normalize the life of nations and make their intercourse possible, has now passed into the common method of thought of the Chinese. The political thought of China in the last decade has been able indeed to appropriate in superior fashion the experiences of Europe and America and to select out of these that which is important for their national life.

Thus the Chinese world of thought is not only enriched and deepened, but it has also prepared itself deliberately for an adaptation to the international life of the world.

If we now turn our attention somewhat toward the probable character of the political method of action of this powerful new State, we find pronounced on many sides the greatest apprehensions. From the formation of this new world power many expect only danger and evil for old Europe. They picture the new China as forthwith impelled by an untamed impulse of conquest, and they fear far-reaching changes or displacements among the powers. But still it appears quite clear that the larger part of these fears arise out of false analogies and out of logic which does not rest on the actual character of the Chinese popular nature. We remember still the invasion of the Mongolians into Europe and we fear its repetition; but we fail to think of this point, that those were not the peaceful sedentary Chinese, but an entirely different race, who had not yet outgrown the

nomadic mode of existence, and who under the conditions of modern life are no longer fit for conquest as the fiasco of the Russian Cossacks has demonstrated.

Those same hordes which descended upon Europe carried their activity also into China, and the Chinese had to suffer similarly from them. It can perhaps be justly maintained that the period of migrations is over in settled national divisions. The great nations from which especially an effective waging of war might be expected have on the one hand become so sedentary that it can no more occur to them to rise up "en masse;" on the other hand, also, they are so strong that they can protect their home country very effectively against expeditions of conquest. But now among all the nations the Chinese are the most sedentary, the most bound to their sod through feeling and tradition. And theirs is the great title to glory of having made it possible, through diligence and self-mastery, for the greatest number of men to live in a given territory, and they have made this possible precisely in this wise, that they not only developed the arts of peace, but also expressed the thought of peace in their life. Lao-Tze is still the philosopher who rules the thought of the Chinese millions, and the profound peacefulness of this sphere of thought is found again also in the philosophy of Confucius. It certainly may not be overlooked that of late years, simultaneously with the growth of a strong national feeling, there has developed the feeling for military power. Everywhere, in clubs, in social groups and in schools, the Chinese seek to favor and further military developments. But this is the natural impulse of the awakening national sense to be potently active in every direction, and particularly also to be able to secure sufficiently the fundamental qualifications of the national life by the necessary force. It is an instrument for maintaining and defending the Chinese national life and spirit; but the chief inclinations of this spirit which are to be defended by this instrument have not deviated by a hair from the old Chinese popular system; they are still the same as ever, prepared for peace and civilized in the true meaning of the word. To expect a Napoleonic policy of conquest from the newly strengthened China is to forget its entire physical development. China's sense of justice will, to be sure, use the military power for the purpose of protecting itself against the encroachments of foreign nations; where the fundamental conditions of life demand it, this power may also support an expansion of the Chinese realm, especially in the direction of Mongolia. But only those have to fear the awakening of this power who oppose themselves to the just claims of this great people or who strive for unjust advantages over them.

From the point of view of the economical life of the world, the perfecting of a great national state in China is to be looked upon as a favorable momentum to the unity of the world on the whole, and especially for the immediate future. The creation of an effective organization of this kind is always of advantage for all other members of the family of nations. So also will the prosperity which will develop under the new conditions in China be useful to the entire world. Right at the start it leads to a mutual understanding among the nations that in the new China there is a market that shall be held accessible to all alike; in large measures,

therefore, will the economic and political rivalries between the nations in the East be lessened if the new organization in China is completely and surely established.

If one looks upon the awakening of the Chinese nation from the point of view of the civilized world, one can greet it only as a great step forward—a step which all nations may greet with satisfaction; for the best which in the East and in the West, from Japan, across Europe, even to America, has been thought, accomplished, and acquired by struggle will now find its expression in the new China and help to a renaissance of the life of this mighty people, whereby the co-operation of the old proved national characteristics with the new strivings after efficient expression of the national individuality will call into being a great civilization. If, moreover, this or that nation sees itself injured or endangered in smaller interests, on the whole only profit and blessing can accrue to each from the development which is now going forward under our eyes, for it is of the greatest importance to each nation of the world that the great energies of the Chinese national life may be farther advanced and established in the direction of the highest civilization.

### Book Notices.

**THE TERRIBLE MEEK.** A one-act stage play for three voices; to be played in darkness. By Charles Rann Kennedy. New York and London: Harper and Brothers. March, 1912. Price, \$1 net.

Mr. Kennedy believes that the peace of the world can be brought about only by a change in men's hearts. Being a dramatist, he has given his belief in the transforming power of Christianity a dramatic form that is unusual and striking, almost daring. Nowhere else except in the Passion Play of Oberammergau have we the crucifixion story, or events connected therewith, put on the stage. Here it is done with high moral purpose, and with fitting reserve and reverence.

At first one only dimly realizes whither the play is tending. It opens in utter darkness. The place is a lonely hilltop; an execution has just taken place. There are three characters, or, rather, three voices, as the only dramatis personæ—a peasant woman, an army captain, and a common soldier. Gradually through the lamentations of the mother over her son's death, the captain's remonstrances at her remaining in so ghastly a place, the soldier's remarks about "this 'ere little job we been doin'," and his wonder at "wot it was 'e reely done," there begins to dawn on one the similarity to the New Testament story of the cross.

With great rapidity the drama moves on to its dénouement. The woman in a heartrending monologue tells the tale of her son's life; there is exquisite poetry and pathos in her words. The captain listens, and as her voice fades into silence realizes his share in the crime, and begs her forgiveness. His heart and conscience are touched, and he exclaims: "It will take a new kind of soldier to serve in his kingdom. A new kind of duty. . . . I can see the end of war in this: some day." The soldier approaches and hands the captain orders to report to the general to help in another execution. The reply is: "I refuse to come. I disobey. . . . I have sworn duty to another gene-